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Swanscombe Urban District Council

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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Nineteenth Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1944

BY

C. M. OCKWELL,
M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S., (Eng.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

GRAVESEND.
Printed by the Gravesend and Dartford Reporter, Ltd., 44-46, Harmer Street.

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SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the
SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Nineteenth Annual Report of the Council.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	2142
Population (Census 1931)	8541
Present Estimated Population	6756
Number of inhabited houses (includes separately rated flats)	2093
Rateable Value	£58,268
Sum represented by a penny rate	£228

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	125	74	51
	Illegitimate	4	3	1
		129	77	52

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	19.1
General birth rate for England and Wales	17.6

	Total	M.	F.
Stillbirths	4	3	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths)	30.7

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	101	60	41

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	15.0

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population caused by enemy action	2.2
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population including deaths caused by enemy action	15.0
General Death rate for England and Wales	11.6

Death from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total	—	—

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	38.7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	40.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	.....	.....
Measles	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....
Whooping Cough	.....	.....
Diphtheria	.....	.....
Influenza	.....	.....
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	.....	.....
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.....	.....
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	6	.....
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	.....	1
Syphilis	.....	.....
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis		.....

Cancer, Malignant Disease	6	6
Diabetes	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	—	—
Heart Disease	22	10
Aneurysm	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	—
Bronchitis	3	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	—	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—
Peptic Ulcer	—	—
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	—	—
Appendicitis	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	2	—
Nephritis	1	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	—	—
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	—	1
Senility	—	—
Suicide	—	—
Other Violence	10	10
Other Defined Diseases	—	—
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	2	5
Road Traffic	—	1
Intra Cran Vasc. Lessions	5	4

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health : C. M. OCKWELL, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.P.H. (Camb.), part time appointed 1st October, 1926.

Sanitary Inpsector : L. E. CROUCHER (who is also Surveyor), M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., appointed 1st July, 1926.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector : F. W. SHARPE (part time).

There are no further developments under the following heads :—

Nursing in the Home. **Ambulance Facilities.**
Midwives. **Hospitals.**
Legislation in Force. **Rivers and Streams.**
Maternity and Nursing Homes.

The local St. John Ambulance, with those of the local works, has proved itself adequate to the needs of the District.

County Laboratory.

The following specimens were dealt with from this district :—

*Diphtheria Swabs	—
*Sputa (for tubercle bacillus)	7
No. of samples of effluent from the Outfall Works	—
*Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	—
*Serum for Typhus	—
Schools' milk samples: Bacteriological test for Cleanliness	12
Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936	5
*Haemolytic Streptococci Swab	1
No. of samples of water from Swimming Pool	1
No. of samples of water from Dwellings' Domestic Supply	—
No. of samples of water from Factories	2
Watercress	4
*Dysenteriae Sonne	13

* Only positive specimens reported.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—All houses are supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

Drainage and Sewage.

HOUSES CONNECTED :—

Local Authority's	
Other Bodies	—
War Emergency Camp	1

	No. in Districts	No. of visits in 1944	No. of faults and defects found	No. of faults and defects remedied
Bakehouses	7	21	2	2
Dairies	2	23	1	1
*Slaughterhouses — Registered	2	— } 8	—	—
*Slaughterhouses — Licensed	2	—		
Other food-preparing places which are, as such, subject to inspection	28	278	4	4
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—
Houses-let-in-lodgings	—	—	—	—
Factories	24	26	3	3
Workshops	22	30	—	—
Workplaces (other than outworkers' homes)	15	17	2	2

* No Licences Granted.

Nuisances and Defects remedied during the Year (other than those enumerated in the previous Tabulation).

Overcrowding	—	Miscellaneous	17
Keeping of Animals	1	Refuse Receptacles	51
Hop-pickers' Camp	—	Tents, Vans and Sheds	—
Sanitary Accommodation—		Smoke Nuisances	1
(i) Insufficient		Yard Paving	6
(ii) Defective	9	Dampness.	11
Drainage—		Roofs and Rain Water Pipes	13
(i) Re-constructed	1	Floors	3
(ii) Repaired	2	Walls and Ceilings	39
(iii) Cleansed	88	Windows and Ventilation	12
Cesspools—		Baths, Lavatory Basins and Sinks	3
(i) Abolished	—	Water Supplies	2
(ii) Repaired	—		
Offensive Accumulations	3		

Total number of visits of all kinds paid by Inspectors during the year 1108

Approximate number of separate premises in the area 2093

Number of premises containing each type of sanitary convenience in district (approximate) :—

W.C's into drainage system	2166	W.C's into cesspools	91
Earth closets or privy middens	1	Pail closets	6

Number of premises not connected to public water supplies 2

Notices served : Statutory, 38. Informal, 60

Number of houses, etc., disinfected 8

Batches of clothing 6

Shops Act, 1934.

No action was taken under the above Act.

Swimming Bath.

Premises used for Air Raid Precautions. Opened during Season by Council in connection with Holidays at Home

Attendances : Adults 2496 Children 10,896.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(1) The number of (a) Council houses, 4 ; (b) other houses, 2 ; (i) found to be infested, 6 ; (ii) disinfested, 6.

(2) The method employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs is by sulphur fumigation. (Flour of Sulphur).

(3) The method employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses : Inspection and disinfestation before occupation.

(4) The work of disinfestation : (a) Council houses, Local Authority. (b) Private houses, owners and occupiers.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES.

Treatment—Pro Scabin.

No. of cases treated	149
No. of cases notified	149

Treatment Centre—First Aid Post.
Scabies, compulsorily notifiable.

SCHOOLS.

Sanitary Conveniences.

Water Closets and Lavatory Basins sufficient for requirements.

Drinking Water.

Supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	303
Number of inspections made for that purpose	303
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under the preceding heading) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Amendment Regulations, 1925 and 1932	208
Number of inspections made for that purpose	208
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	132

2. Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers	96

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	37
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	31
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	95
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	84
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .... —

(e) (1) Total number of houses owned by the Local Local Authority 476

(45 are being sold ; 30 are sold).

Purchased by Local Authority in Clearance Area..... 1

(2) Number of new houses built during 1944 :—

(a) By the Local Authority .... —

(b) By other bodies or persons .... —

Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .... —

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ..... —

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..... —

(b) (i) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .... —

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .... —

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..... —

(d) (i) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..... —

Milk Supply.

Of the 12 samples of School Milk taken, all were found to be satisfactory.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Amount of food condemned during year—5 cwt. 2 qtrs. 16 lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	8
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	8
All diseases except Tuberculosis— Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis only— Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year, 1944.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	25	6	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—	2
Measles	65	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	—
Other diseases generally notifiable	2	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Total	99	6	2

Disease	Age under 1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and up's	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	3	12	5	1	1				25
Diphtheria												
Puerperal Pyrexia												
Pneumonia					1					1	1	3
Erysipelas										1	1	2

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Under 5 years		Over 5 and up to 15 years		Total
Course Completed	Not Completed	Course Completed	Not Completed	
44	4	72	8	128

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Cases			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5			1					
10								
15	2	1	1					
20	1	2			1			1
25								
35	3			1	1			
45								
65 and upwards	1			1	2			
Totals	7	3	2	2	4	—	—	1

Ratio of non-notified deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths—25%

The efficiency of notification in the area is fairly good.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

1. **INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.**

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power	56	3	—
Factories without mechanical power	17	2	—
Other premises under the Act	—	—	—
Totals	73	5	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects			No. of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	4	4	—	—
Totals	5	5	—	—

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

There was no need for action under these Regulations.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.
,, ,, ,, 1936, ,, 172.

There was no occasion for action under these Sections.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. M. OCKWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.